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Vol. 47, No. 27 • 374th Airlift Wing • Yokota Air Base, Japan • Friday, July 21, 2006

Base recovers after powerful weekend thunderstorm

By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Nearly one week after a powerful thunderstorm ripped through Yokota Air Base, some units are still recovering from the debris and minor damages it caused.

Although the storm's duration was brief, it's recorded time over Yokota was just over 20 minutes, it caused minor localized flooding, power outages, uprooted trees and minor damage to some aircraft on the flightline.

The storm formed 10 miles west of Yokota and started producing occasional lightning as it approached the base at noon, when weather officials issued lightning and wind warnings. By 12:40 p.m., the storm was over the base and lightning intensified, and between 12:42 and 1 p.m., three inches of rain and half-inch size hail accumulated on base.

Wind speeds were unrecorded due to the intense rain disrupting the sensors, but forecasters were able to estimate the speed at 50 miles per hour.

"The sudden change of wind speed along with the amount of torrential rain was enough to uproot trees," said Maj. Erin Willingham, 374th Operations Support Squadron combat weather team commander. "The temperature before the storm arrived was 93 degrees, allowing for the warm air to continually rise in a line of convective storms, creating hail until the storm's collapse over Yokota."

The storm's winds brought down 14 trees across the base, but caused only minor to one of the 374th Airlift Wing's C-130 Hercules aircraft.



photo by Marco Nazario

Members of the 374th Security Forces Squadron respond to Airlift Avenue when a tree fell across the roadway during a thunderstorm Saturday afternoon.

"Right after the storm we had maintainers out on the flightline checking for damages," said Maj. Miklos Kiss, 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "Thankfully the only damage we found was a rudder boost pack on one of the aircraft which is operated by hydraulic pressure. The winds were strong enough to forcibly move the part, but we replaced it Monday."

The 374th Civil Engineer Squadron was able to mobilize the grounds maintenance crews within five minutes after the hail storm ended. This enabled a quick cleanup of trees that fell across roads and loose debris that had accu-

mulated in the drains causing flooding.

"I was in the office when the storm hit and was able to get on the phone with our contractors to let them know we'd need cleanup after the storm passed," said Staff Sgt. John Spence, 374th CES Geobase section noncommissioned officer in charge. "We were able to get out and remove the trees from the roads, but we are still working to get some of the holes filled in and grass replaced in some areas. Thankfully all the damage was minor, with only one call for a broken window and some buildings losing power for a short time due to lightning strikes."

The civil engineers are continuing to work on other minor repairs around the base such as repositioning some traffic lights along Airlift Avenue that were moved out of proper alignment and grounds cleanup in other portions of the base.

We're glad to have gotten all the major infrastructure components up and running so quickly and hope to have the last of the minor repairs done within a week or so, Sergeant Spence added.

The strength of the storm surprised not just base residents and long-term employees, but also a C-5 Galaxy crew who was at Yokota on a Pacific Channel mission from Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

"I was astonished at the sudden onset and intensity of the storm," said Chief Master Sgt. Ernest Zamora, 349th Operations Group. "The wind and hail were powerful enough to chip some of the paint from the leading edges of our aircraft's wings. I was amazed at the thunderstorm's intensity and surprised that it [the storm] didn't cause more extensive damage."

Reserve squadron makes repairs on base heating systems

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In the sweltering heat and impromptu thunderstorms, 11 men and women of the 624th Civil Engineer Squadron, from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, are making sure Yokota will have heat and hot water for the winter.

The Air Force Reserve squadron was augmenting the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron's heating section from July 6 until today.

"It's been a true pleasure working alongside the men and women of the 374th CES," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Canino, 624th CES. "They work extremely hard keeping this base up and running on all cylinders. We're just glad we could help them out."



The reason for the unit's visit was to help fix an issue with the boilers on base.

"The boilers had water coming back into their system, which didn't allow them to fully function," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Walker, a plumber with the 624th CES. "Even though it's not a huge issue right now in the summer months, it would have been this coming winter."

To take care of the issue, the 374th CES and 624th have worked in conjunction with one another to go through the mechanical rooms of more than 100 buildings ensuring the water systems were operating properly.

The chief said the experience was a good one because the squadron does not deal with heating systems everyday being based in Hawaii.

"A lot of our folks don't see

high-pressure steam on a regular basis, so this was excellent training for them," said the chief.

The 624th CES has more than 130 members in the squadron and usually has a good portion of the squadron deployed throughout the Pacific region.

"We deploy to Southwest Asia and a number of joint exercises throughout the region," said the chief. "We hold ourselves to the same standards as the active-duty members and gladly work alongside our brothers in arms."

According to Chief Master Sergeant Canino, the unit is a "traditional" reservist unit in that the majority of the members are "part-time."

"At the end of the day, it's been a real team effort," said Chief Canino. "The term gets thrown around easily, but this truly was as the 374th CES, the Japanese nationals and the 624th CES worked day in and day out together."



courtesy photos

Senior Airman Harry Shin, 624th Civil Engineer Squadron, examines the hydronic heat exchanger. Inset, CE troops point to a leak in the water heater tube bundle that was replaced in Bldg. 315.



photo by Airman 1st Class Brian Kimball

Welcome!

The 374th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Scott Goodwin hands the Mission Support Group guidon to the group's new commander Col. Lee Wyatt during the July 13 change of command ceremony in Hangar 15. Colonel Wyatt assumed command from Col. William Story, who will become an instructor at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

PACAF receives top safety honor

By Staff Sgt. Shad Eidson

Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — Pacific Air Forces is the recipient of the Major General Benjamin D. Foulois Memorial Award in recognition for its flight safety program for the past year.

The award was presented to the major command by members of the Order of Daedalians during a ceremony here July 1. To receive the annual flight safety award, the Air Force chief of staff selects the major command with the year's best flying safety record.

"This is a testament to the combined efforts of aircrews and maintainers. They deserve it," said Arizona Air National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Michael J. Shira, who accepted the award on be-

half of the PACAF commander, Gen. Paul V. Hester.

PACAF's 2005 safety record included no destroyed aircraft or aircrew fatalities. It also achieved the secretary of defense's goal of a 50-percent reduction in major aviation mishaps for the second year in a row.

PACAF, which has less than 53,000 military and civilian personnel assigned to cover more than 70 percent of the Earth's oceans, accomplished the safety record while flying combat sorties to support operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and supporting tsunami relief efforts during Operation Unified Assistance. During tsunami relief efforts, PACAF stood up a 24/7 air operations center to organize rescue and relief flight efforts by the

Air Force as well as Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and other nations.

"This event and the awards promote safety and remind everyone of our support to air supremacy and air and space power," said Daedalians member retired Maj. Gen. William J. Breckner Jr.

The Major General Benjamin D. Foulois Memorial Award trophy will be on display at the Order of Daedalians headquarters on Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. The Order of Daedalians is a national fraternity of commissioned military pilots. The order presents a total of 16 trophies each year to Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard organizations and individuals to promote safety and military professionalism.

Combat readiness detractors; helping the one percent 'get it'

An airman first class was charged with two specifications of Article 130, housebreaking, one specification of Article 81, conspiracy to commit larceny, and two specifications of Article 121, larceny. Punishment consisted of a reduction to airman basic, a forfeiture of \$636 pay per month for two months, 45 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

An airman first class was charged with one specification of Article 130, housebreaking, one specification of Article 81, conspiracy to commit larceny, and one specification of Article 121, larceny. Punishment consisted of a reduction to airman, a suspended reduction to airman basic, a forfeiture of \$167 pay per month for one month, and a reprimand.

A staff sergeant was charged with one specification of Article 128, assault, and one specification of Article 92, dereliction of duty, for disclosing another member's medical information. Punishment consisted of a reduction to senior airman and a reprimand.

An airman first class was charged with one specification of Article 134, failure to pay a debt on a government travel card. Punishment consisted of a reduction to airman and a reprimand.

A senior airman was charged with one specification of Article 111, drunken operation of a vehicle. Punishment consisted of a reduction to airman first class, 30 days extra duty, 30 days restriction and a reprimand.

Birth announcements

April 22 – Simon Taylor Leachman, eight-pound, eight-ounce son of Rebecca and John Leachman.

April 29 – Joaquin Konala Owens, seven-pound, 11-ounce son of Marcella and David Owens.

April 30 – Sara Elaine Turk, seven-pound, four-ounce daughter of Mamiko and Jason Turk.

May 2 – Keaton Lamar Rawls, six-pound, 15-ounce son of Kawana and Lamar Rawls.

May 3 – Hannah Claire Yelton, eight-pound, 10-ounce daughter of Danielle and Travis Yelton.

May 6 – William Ray Thomas, eight-pound, five ounce son of Teresa and William Thomas.

May 7 – Bryce Jordan Summers, seven-pound, 14-ounce son of Tiffany and Carlos Summers.

May 12 – James Richard Francisco, eight-pound, six-ounce son of Lorelei and Johnny Francisco.

May 12 – Arisa Kanon Souza, five-pound, 15-ounce daughter of Akiko and John Souza.

May 22 – Lily Henrietta Brooks, seven-pound, four-ounce daughter of Amy and Josh Brooks.

May 27 – James Dominic Boatman, eight-pound, five-ounce son of Rebecca and Elliott Boatman.

May 29 – Vanessa Marie Mello, six-pound, eight-ounce daughter of Paola and Steven Mello.

May 31 – Julianne Mikaela Stearns, nine-pound, two-ounce daughter of Sandy and Ted Stearns.

June 16 – Manuel Beacham Saenz, nine-pound, two-ounce son of Tanya and Mario Saenz.

June 17 – Audrey Jayne Alford, seven-pound, four-ounce daughter of Jean and Parker Alford.

Nihon-go now

⇒ **Where can I buy ice cream?**

Aisu-kuriimu wa doko de kaemasuka.
(ah-ee-soo koo-lee-moo wah doh-koh deh kah-e-mah-soo-kah.)

⇒ **I would like to buy an umbrella please.**

Kasa wo kaitai desu.
(Kah-sah oh kah-ee-tah-ee dess.)

AD



photo by Master Sgt. Dominique Brown

A wireless debut
From left to right, C-5
crewmembers Staff Sgt.
Dwayne Taylor, crew-
chief, left, and Capt.
Brian Foley, pilot, from
Travis Air Force Base,
Calif., use the new wire-
less internet in the the
Kanto Lodge lobby.
Wireless internet is also
available at the Yujo
Community Center and
Samurai Cafe.

MXS opens new fuels facility

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

On Tuesday, the 374th Maintenance Squadron will officially open its new Aircraft Fuel Systems Maintenance Facility on the east side. The hangar moves the fuels system repair section from Bldg. 1503 to its new location in Bldg. 1587.

Construction on the new facility started in September 2004 and was completed in April 2006. "What this place ultimately provides us with is a safer work environment," said Tech. Sgt. Marcus Lane, assistant sec-

tion chief of the 374th MXS fuels system repair section. "This facility is a great example of forethought in the planning process."

The new hangar employs a state-of-the-art fire extinguishing system, which can cover an entire C-130 aircraft within 90 seconds. The hangar also has air conditioning, which according to the sergeant is a very rare commodity.

The 374th MXS fuels system repair section moved into the building and started working there in June.

"This facility enables us greater flexibility in conducting our mission," said the sergeant.

Off-base trash incidents cost wing more than \$450,000 a year

By Master Sgt. Dominique Brown
 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Depositing off-base trash onto Yokota Air Base is not allowed. Even though this is clearly posted on all base dumpsters in both English and Japanese, individuals continue to bring off-base trash onto the base.

Off-base items such as household trash, car batteries, appliances and large furniture are found in dumpsters around the base and the 374th Airlift Wing has to pay for each incident.

"Refuse from off base can be identified by the refuse contractor," said Yuki Inoue, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron pollution prevention manager. Once identified, it is documented and recorded by number of incidents. Incidents can be anything from a bag of trash or an appliance to a set of tires, and

then it is all accounted for by weight.

"When off-base trash is identified, the individual is contacted by CE and asked to come remove their trash," said Ms. Inoue. "Failure to remove the trash will result in their name being forwarded to the appropriate commander who may take administrative actions."

"People might think that a little bag of trash is an insignificant amount but it all adds up to a significant expense for the government—ultimately affecting the base community," said Ms. Inoue. "The wing pays an average of \$500 per ton of trash and off-base trash is estimated to be a 10 percent overage authorized in the refuse contract. This costs the wing more than \$450,000 annually."

"This is a 'must pay' bill," said Larry Lucas, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight chief. "The more we

spend on off-base trash handling, is the less we can spend on other base programs, and although depositing off-base trash has been an ongoing problem for Yokota, it has increased at an alarming rate.

Typically, government employees and servicemembers who live off base and local residents who work on base are found depositing the unauthorized trash. "Some people might not understand how to dispose of off-base trash," said Mr. Lucas. "However, this is an integrity issue; people can ask their landlord, base housing agent or the environmental office for clarification and specifics for trash disposal in their city."

There are six neighboring municipalities around Yokota, and each have different trash disposal rules and procedures. The base housing office offers translated brochures with detailed instructions to properly dispose

of trash in each municipality.

"Off-base residents are compensated for the cost of garbage disposal through their utility allowances," said Michika Hanzawa, Housing Office referral counselor. "The allowance is to assist with expenses for average water, sewage, electric, gas and trash disposal."

The off-base trash policy is also briefed during inprocessing at Right Start and by the off-base housing office personnel, and it has also been posted in the Japanese Fuji Flyer to make sure all base personnel are informed.

We can all help by being good neighbors," said Mr. Lucas. "If you see someone depositing off-base trash on base, let them know it is not authorized."

For more information about the off-base trash policy, call the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight at 225-5440.

AD

'The times, they are a changin'

How the Air Force has survived decade after decade of changes

By Col. Michael Riddle
374th Maintenance Group

When I made my decision to join the Air Force in the late 1970s, we had just finished the Vietnam war, Jimmy Carter was president and (similar to the aftermath of every big war), huge cuts had been made to the military.

One of my favorite folk singers of the day was Bob Dylan. He had no singing voice to speak of, but he was truly an American poet and anti-war activist. He wrote:

*If your time to you
Is worth savin'
Then you better start
swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-
changin'*

There were tremendous changes going on in America and in the military. We started a thing called the "all-volunteer" military. Many felt the military would fall on its face, that good people could only be drafted into the military. I was told frequently, this was not a good time to join the military.

I joined anyway and the crusty old chiefs and colonels I worked with fondly told war stories about how great things used to be. They mourned the future of the Air Force with all these changes and with the kinds of youth they were seeing now that we were an all-volunteer force (I was one of those kids). I often saw one

of those old heads punch out and retire claiming they couldn't hang around and contribute to the destruction of their Air Force.

As a young person, I didn't buy into the doom and gloom. I was having the time of my life and all the change the Air Force was going through was exciting to me. Half the fun in life was diving into the daily problems and finding a way around, over, under or through them.

I found I liked change and the opportunity to make change. I didn't like running into obstacles that stayed there because, "this was the way we have always done it." My favorite author, Isaac Asimov, once said "It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be ..."

In the late 1980s, the Air Force made a big change in my career field of aircraft maintenance. We went from 3-levels of maintenance (meaning flightline, backshop, and repair and depot overhaul) to 2-levels of maintenance (meaning just flightline and depot overhaul).

In those days, crewchiefs were on the flightline and specialists were in the back shops where they learned their trade by rebuilding parts in

shop and testing them on complex test stands. If they needed to be on an aircraft, they would leave the shop and drive to the aircraft. This new system not only cut manning (a horrifying thought), it did away with the shops and kept specialists on the flightline full time.

While the crusty old colonels and chiefs bemoaning the future of the Air Force, I as a mid-grade captain still found change exciting. Since I frequently deployed doing essentially the same thing on a bare-base operation, it was a concept I could see actually working. Sure enough, here we are almost 20 years later and the Air Force is still around and better than anytime in its history.

In the early 1990s, the Air Force along with the other services took huge manning cuts as part of the post-Desert Storm and post-Cold War "Peace Dividend." I remember seeing many friends and respected co-workers leave the Air Force as part of that drawdown. Of course, all the talk was how the Air Force would survive.

That period of time I was stationed at the Air Mobility command headquarters (recently struggling from some massive changes of its own). I remember several general officer briefings woefully juxtaposing the manning cuts on top of the

four-fold increase in contingencies across the world.

The one common theme I hope everyone picks up from this is we continue to face change and it is not unusual to hear people groaning about it. To quote Rickard Hooker from the 16th century (yes, they were having problems with change way back then), "Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better."

The interesting thing is, it is usually the youth that embrace change and make the mission happen, ultimately making the Air Force better than it ever was. The older you get, the more comfortable you are with the way things are and the more threatened you are by change. So now that I find myself one of those old crusty colonels, I would like to break tradition by telling our young Airmen (officer and enlisted) that yes, there is change coming and it will be big but it will make the Air Force even better than anything I was ever involved.

Don't listen to those bemoaning the future; they will probably drop by the wayside like those before them. You are the new generation; you thrive on the excitement these changes will bring. Ride this change as you would a massive wave off the North Shore of Hawaii during the X Games. Be fearless, the future is yours.



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Col. Scott Goodwin

374th Airlift Wing Commander

I just wanted to say thank you to all the people who made it possible and supported the opening of the parent-child room. I got a chance to workout in it this morning and it is very nice and another great effort the military is taking to take care of the spouses.

I was very excited when I saw the article in Stars and Stripes last week, I wasn't sure we would see the opening before we left. I

know the need has been there for a long time, and many moms I know through Mothers of Preschoolers, Bible study or the play ground have expressed an interest in a room like this. Thank you again to everyone who made it possible for us spouses to also stay "fit to fight" and be better supporters of our active-duty member.

The room is a great service to all spouses with small children, but especially the ones whose active-duty member is deployed. I will help spread the word that the room is available.

Thanks again for your time and sincere consideration.

A Thank you very much for your response. It's always a pleasure reading an action line thanking us for our efforts to make Yokota Air Base a better place to live. The efforts of our Services Division to improve our quality of life programs have been nothing but impressive during my time as the commander here. The leadership of the wing and our entire Services Division staff are committed to continuing those efforts. Your feedback, positive or negative, is what makes projects like this become a reality. As our services director, Mr. Robyn Sleeth, likes to say, "You asked, we listened, here it is." Again, thank you for taking the time to tell us what you think.

DUI Prevention

July 11 – July 17	0
Total DUIs in July	1
Total in 2006	8

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

*Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!*

The calm after the storm ... *base recovers after storm comes through Saturday*

Right, Senior Airman Victor Nanez cuts down an uprooted tree that fell across Airlift Avenue as Airman 1st Class Jeremy Jones waits his turn to help. Both Airmen are firefighters assigned to the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron. Below, Staff Sgt. Michael Shorter and Airman 1st Class Roderick Walker remove an American flag tattered from the sudden storm Saturday.



photo by Shawn Hogan



photo by Marco Nazario

Middle center, an employee from the Skills Development Center holds one of several baby birds blown from a tree during the storm. Workers wore gloves to ensure they didn't leave any scent behind while cleaning ants off the birds. Bottom center, after workers placed the birds back in their nest, the mother returned.

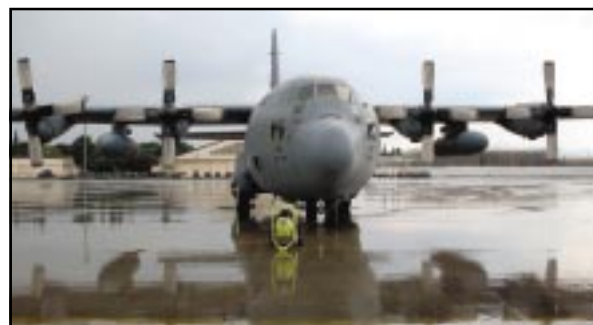


photo by Staff Sgt. James Brittain



photo by Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik



photo by Marco Nazario



photo by Shawn Hogan



photo by Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik

Above, the 374th Airlift Wing's C-130 Hercules aircraft weathered the storm very well. Only one aircraft suffered minor damage to a rudder boost pack that was repaired Monday. Left, an uprooted tree stump is carefully removed by 374th CES grounds maintenance crews Monday morning. The sudden storm produced large amounts of lightning in addition to high winds, rain and hail.

Grounds maintenance crews from the 374th CES load logs into a truck after an uprooted tree at the 374th Airlift Wing headquarters building was cut up following the storm Saturday. The storm destroyed 14 trees, caused flooding and power outages after dropping three inches of rain and half-inch size hail in 22 minutes.

AD

Off base

Auto Gallery Tokyo 2006: Tokyo Big Sight is hosting this annual auto show July 28 and 29. The Sight is a five-minute walk from the Rinkai Line or Yurikamome Tneji-jo Station.

31st Hamura Natsu Matsuri: The city of Hamura is hosting its annual summer festival July 29 from 3 to 8:30 p.m. on the east side of JR Hamura Station. The festival includes a dance parade, samba contest, booths and more. Volunteers are also needed to help run a cotton candy booth for the Hamura-Yokota Friendship Club. E-mail ryo-nozaki@mtf.biglobe.ne.jp.

Japanese Iris Festival: The Fukiage Shobu Park is hosting this festival through Aug. 2. More than 100,000 bulbs will be in bloom. It is a 15-minute walk from JR Ome Line's Higashi-Ome Station.

Spring Rose Festa: The Jindai Shokubutsu Park is hosting this festa through Aug. 2. It includes a competition and numerous displays. Call 042-482-2300

Fussa Tanabata Festival: Fussa City is hosting a traditional Japanese festival Aug. 3 through 5 around the Fussa Station's west exit.

Antique Jamboree: It is the largest antique fair in Japan, held at Tokyo Big Sight Aug. 4 to 6. More than 500 dealers will be there. It is a five-minute walk from the Rinkai Line or Yurikamome Tneji-jo Station.

Akishima Kujira Festival and fireworks: This summer festival includes music, games, performances and a parade Aug. 5-6. Fireworks will be Aug. 5 at 8:50 p.m. It is located behind the JR Ome Line's Akishima Station, west exit.

On base

Movies

Today – *Pirates of the Caribbean*, PG-13, 2 p.m., 6 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *Ice Age 2*, PG, 2 p.m.; *Pirates of the Caribbean*, PG-13, 6 p.m., *Mission Impossible 3*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday – *Just My Luck*, PG-13, 2 p.m.; *Pirates of the Caribbean*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Monday – *United 93*, R, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Stick It*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Pirates of the Caribbean*, PG-13, 7 p.m. (adults only)

Thursday – *Just My Luck*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

Shopping trip

The Airman and Family Readiness Center is offering a Machida shopping center trip Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 225-8725.

Pre-deployment

A pre-deployment briefing is held every Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend the briefing. Call 225-3347.

Homeschool group

The Yokota Homeschool Group hosts monthly meetings, field trips and more during the school year. Send an e-mail to yokotahomeschoolers@hotmail.com.

Tanabata Dancers

Learn to perform traditional Japanese dances with the Tanabata Dancers. Practices are on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and are held in Tower 2085. E-mail tanabata_dancers@hotmail.com.

Bundles for Babies

The Airmen and Family Readiness Center offers an educational program Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon for couples expecting a baby. Topics include infant care and selecting a caregiver. Call 225-8725.

Air Force Aid Society

The official charity of the Air Force provides emergency assistance on a case by case basis for emergency travel, car repairs, financial emergencies and more. Call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 225-8725.

Car Care Voucher

First term Airmen and spouses of deployed or temporary duty Airmen are eligible for a \$50 voucher for car care at the AAFES garage. Call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 225-8724.

Young adults

A free coffee bar is offered every Friday from 7 p.m. to midnight in the building behind the Traditional Chapel for all young adults. An educational and inspirational gathering is held Tuesdays beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the same building. Call 090-1107-2107.

Motorcycle Instructors

Motorcycle rider coaches are needed. Classes are free and class dates are from July 31 to Aug. 9. For more information, visit www.YokotaMC.org.

Deployed dinner

Families of deployed members are invited to an Asian dinner at the Airman and Family Readiness Center tonight from 6 to 8 p.m. Meet with other families of deployed spouses. Call 225-8725.

Appreciation dinner

The Samurai Cafe is having a customer appreciation dinner July 27 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Open to all eligible dining facility customers. Free to dorm residents.

Paintball closure

The Tama Hills paintball operation is scheduled to be closed July 29 then resume normal hours.

Child Care

Registration for the Child Development Centers' part-day enrichment program for returning children is Aug. 15 to 18, and registration for new enrollment is Aug. 22 to 25. Call 225-8810 or 225-8860.

225-RIDE

Volunteers are needed for 225-RIDE. Send an e-mail to 225-RIDE@yokota.af.mil.

Samurai Warrior



of the Week



Staff Sgt. Lee Maples

Staff Sgt. Lee Maples, 374th Maintenance Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the Bushido qualities of sympathy toward all people, sincerity and respect for one's word of honor, absolute loyalty to one's superior, and a duty to defend the honor of one's name and guild.

Sergeant Maples is the isochronal support section chief for the maintenance flight. He single-handedly redesigned and re-flowed the flight's support section layout, eliminating tool checkout lines and waste to save 25 hours daily. His tool check-in process fostered huge efficiency gains saving 20 hours weekly. Sergeant Maples volunteered as a teacher's aid at Yokota Middle School and at a local Japanese school to teach written and verbal English skills.

School lunches

Applications are being accepted for the Department of Defense's free and reduced lunch program for the upcoming school year. Families must submit applications and paperwork to the school liaison in Bldg. 316.

Automotive Classes

The Auto Hobby Center offers classes on automotive skills such as equipment safety, maintenance basics, how to change brakes and CV-joints, engine tune-ups and Japanese inspection basics. For prices and schedule call 225-7623.

Spouse employment

If you are a military spouse and would like assistance searching for a job, stop by the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Classes are available to help you get started. For more information email tracie.hathorn@yokota.af.mil.

West Side Deli

The grand re-opening of the West Side Deli is Aug. 14 in the Taiyo Community Center.

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel offers a Bible study throughout the summer in addition to its regular fall studies. Call 225-7009.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel

Catholic: Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; Seventh Day Adventists, Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel

Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean Service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“Having to listen to someone else talk about themselves when I want to talk about me.”

Tom Paciorek,
defining boredom

Cheerleading: The Yokota High School cheerleading squad is hosting tryouts Aug. 8 and 9 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Samurai Fitness Center. A parents meeting is scheduled for Aug. 7 at the high school lecture hall at 6:30 p.m. E-mail to yhs.cheerleaders@yahoo.com.

Circuit training: Morning Madness circuit training is held at the Samurai Fitness Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Call 225-8322.

Fit Mom: Women who are pregnant can attend this class, held Saturdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Natatorium. Exercises include walking in water, hydracircuits, swimming and walk activities. Call 225-8322.

Bodybuilding: The 8th Annual Central Japan Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship is July 23 starting at 9:30 a.m. Tickets can be picked up at the Samurai Fitness Center or at the door. Call 225-8889 for more information.

Youth Soccer: Registration deadline for the 2006 soccer season is July 28, by 12 p.m. Ages five through 15 are eligible. The season is from Sept. 9 - Oct. 21.

Youth Basketball: Operation Night Hoops is a basketball team that offers teens the opportunity to play and improve while learning teamwork through the Teen Center. Call 225-6793.

Baseball provides more than just sport

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

For those looking for a chance to be one of the boys of summer, Yokota Air Base offers several baseball teams to fit your needs.

Yokota is home to several baseball teams that compete in local Japanese city leagues against Japanese teams and sometimes against their fellow Americans.

The Yokota Thunder is one such club on base and according to Robert Martel, the Thunder team captain, they are always on the lookout for players.

“We range in ages from 17-52 on this team and we have all skill levels too,” Martel said. “We have a mix of military, Japanese and civilians on our team. Our great team chemistry is what makes Thunder baseball so enjoyable. One of our players just left and said Thunder baseball was the highlight of his tour.”

Martel said the Thunder are an offshoot of the Yokota Hawks, another team on base, who have been around for 20 years and play very competitively in three Japanese leagues.

“We started as a way to give more people a chance to play,” said Martel. “One of things that might help people is the ball is made of hard rubber and not a standard baseball, so it doesn’t cause the wear and tear on the body.”

The team plays in the Fussa baseball league and plays mainly at Ushihama Stadium, just outside the gate, but they also use Yokota Field for games too. Every Sunday there are games being played at Yokota Field, so if anyone wants to watch they are more than welcome to come out and see what it’s all about.”

On Sunday the Thunder played host to Yamato at Yokota Field. The highly-competitive game saw the Thunder come from behind and win the game in extra innings, 8-7.

Yamato only had eight players so they used Sean “Lumpy”

Schloss to augment from the Yokota Hawks, another club team on base.

The game was tense in the early going with Schloss keeping the Thunder offense on the ropes for most of the first four innings. Ty Sharret started on the mound for the Thunder after shaking off nearly two months of inactiveness and rust. The rust showed a little as he gave up four runs and three walks in five innings of work. Keith Ross came in to relieve Sharret in the bottom of the 6th and retired all three batters he faced with two strike outs and a ground out.

Behind 4-2 in the 7th inning and down to their last out, Thunder utility man D.C. Long walked to put runners at first and second setting the plate for Robert “Biff” Martel and like something out of a dream, he sent the offering from



photos by Master Sgt. Dominique Brown

Schloss on a rope over the left field fence putting the Thunder ahead 5-4. The Thunder only had to hold Yamato scoreless in the bottom of the inning to complete the comeback, but Schloss had other plans as he sent his own long ball over the left field fence for the second time in the game, tying the score once again. With tension running high, right fielder Mike Albea kept the game from ending in the 7th with a great grab to force the game to extra innings.

The Thunder scored one in the top of the 8th only to be tied in the bottom of the 8th again on a timely double by the red-hot Schloss.

In the top of the 9th the Thunder got RBI hits from both Ty Sharret and Justin Boyle to put them up by two runs. Just like the rest of the game, Yamato scored a run in the bottom of the 9th and had a runner on third with two outs.

With the game on the line, Yamato sent a routine grounder hit to short stop Shawn Martel ended another exciting game with Yamato.

For more information on the Thunder, visit their Web site at <http://eteamz.active.com/yokotathunder/> or contact mohrvictor@yahoo.com.

Left, a player from team Yamato prepares to bunt in action against the Yokota Thunder on Sunday at Yokota Field. Above, Ted Reed, #16, takes a lead off first base as he prepares to steal second base. The Thunder beat Yamato 8-7 in a come from behind victory to bring their record to 7 wins and 4 losses on the season.



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